

sportspopup

New Zealand beat Pakistan by 115 runs in 4th T20 to clinch victory in 5-match series
MOUNT MAUNGANUI (New Zealand): Pacers Jacob Duffy and Zakary Foulkes shared seven wickets as New Zealand bowled out Pakistan for 105 Sunday to win the fourth Twenty20 international by 115 runs and clinch victory in the five-match series with a game remaining. Duffy took 4-20 and Foulkes 3-25 as New Zealand's pacers thrived in responsive conditions under the floodlights at Bay Oval and bowled out Pakistan in 16.2 overs. At 56-8 Pakistan was in danger of falling short of its lowest score in T20 internationals — 74 against Australia in 2012. But Abdul Samad made an unbeaten 44 to steer his team past that total and, at 91, past its lowest total against New Zealand. Earlier, Finn Allen made a half-century from 19 balls and captain Michael Bracewell made an unbeaten 46 as New Zealand posted 220-6 after being sent in. The final match of the series will be played at Wellington on Wednesday.

Thakur to join LSG after Mohsin ruled out of IPL due to injury
NEW DELHI: After going unsold in the auction, seam bowling all-rounder Shardul Thakur is set to return to the IPL with Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) roping him in as a replacement for Mohsin Khan, who was ruled out owing to an injury. Under new captain Rishabh Pant, LSG will begin their campaign against Delhi Capitals on Monday. "The Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) have named Shardul Thakur as a replacement for left-arm fast bowler Mohsin Khan, who has been ruled out of the 18th season of the TATA Indian Premier League (IPL) due to injury," IPL said in a statement.

I wouldn't be wanting to bowl to our batters, it's scary: Sunrisers skipper Cummins
HYDERABAD: Sunrisers Hyderabad skipper Pat Cummins said it was "scary" to see the way his batters were clobbered by the bowlers in the IPL, and he himself would not want to operate against them. In the latest instance of the run carnage, SRH made 286 for six to hand a 44-run drubbing to Rajasthan Royals here on Sunday. "I wouldn't be wanting to bowl to our batters. Unbelievable. That was scary. You know it's going to be tough (for the bowlers) but when you get such a big score, one over can win you. We have been able to keep the core of the side together," said Cummins during the post-match presentation ceremony. Hyderabad pacer Harshal Patel said having a massive score on board was helpful for bowlers in the belt of track at the Uppal Stadium. "I felt we were better with the execution barring a few overs. It helps when you have nearly 290 on the board. There's a fine line between being defensive and being aggressive, and it depends on the context of the game. "There will be times when we need to go hard on the stumps but when you have 270-280 on the board, our job gets easier since we have to just bowl defensive," said Patel, who bowled well in the back end of the RR innings.

Moved down to number three as it provides more balance: Gaikwad
CHENNAI: Chennai Super Kings captain Ruturaj Gaikwad on Sunday said he pushed himself down the batting order as it lends more balance to the side. In his place, impact player Rahul Tripathi opened the innings alongside Rachin Ravindra but could not deliver. Gaikwad, batting at three, and Ravindra struck sublime fifties to set up a four-wicket win for CSK over Mumbai Indians. "That is the requirement of the team (talking about the move to bat at three) and that gives the team more balance and I am really happy to change my position," said Gaikwad at the post-match presentation. The skipper praised the performance of the spinners led by CSK debutant Noor Ahmad who took four wickets. "The spinners were right on point and right after the auction, one thing we were really excited in all those three spinners bowling in tandem at Chepauk. Khaleel (pacer) is experienced and Noor is an X factor and that is why we wanted him in the team and good to have Ashwin as well." Mumbai Indians stand-in skipper Suryakumar Yadav predicted a bright future for IPL debutant Vignesh Puthur who made the game interesting by taking three wickets. "We were 15-20 runs short but the fight the boys showed was commendable."

If offered SA captaincy, I would consider it heavily: Kagiso Rabada
NEW DELHI: Premier fast bowler Kagiso Rabada will "heavily consider" captaining South African national team if CSA offers him the top job and is not averse to the tough multi-tasking which is essential for the role. Rabada along with Jasprit Bumrah and Pat Cummins forms the great modern pace bowlers' troika. Among them, Cummins is the regular Australian captain while Bumrah has been a stop-gap leader in Tests and T20s for India. Now, Rabada wants to join them if given the opportunity and the 29-year-old is contemplating about the mental shift he needs to make for the big responsibility.

Wales open with win in World Cup qualifying, Haaland on target for Norway
PARIS: Wales beat Kazakhstan 3-1 on Saturday to start their bid to qualify for the 2026 World Cup with a win, while Erling Haaland was among the scorers as Norway swept to a 5-0 victory in Moldova. Wales are chasing a second straight appearance at the World Cup finals after they made it to the 2022 tournament in Qatar, and Craig Bellamy's team saw off a dogged Kazakhstan side in Cardiff. Results: Moldova 0 Norway 5 (Ryerson 5, Haaland 23, Aasgaard 38, Sorloth 43, Donnum 69), Israel 2 (Hein 23-og, Dasa 75) Estonia 1 (Paskotsi 10), Liechtenstein 0 North Macedonia 3 (Trajkovski 7, Musliu 42, Miovski 84), Wales 3 (D. James 9, B. Davies 47, Matondo 90) Kazakhstan 1 (Tagybergen 32-pen), Montenegro 3 (Jovetic 22, Tuci 70, Marusic 73) Gibraltar 1 (Bent 13), Czech Republic 2 (Schick 25, 85) Faroe Islands 1 (Vatnhamar 83), Poland 1 (Lewandowski 81) Lithuania 0, Malta 0 Finland 1 (Antman 38), Cyprus 2 (Pittas 55, Kakoulli 86) San Marino 0, Romania 0 Bosnia-Herzegovina 1 (Gigovic 14), England 2 (Lewis-Skelly 20, Kane 77) Albania 0, Andorra 0 Latvia 1 (Sits 58).

TODAY'S SPORTS

Goa Professional League (Super League): Goa Police SC vs Sesa FA, at Duler Stadium, Mapusa, 4 pm
GFA U-17 Division I League: South Goa United CS&C vs FC Goa, at Don Bosco Oratory, Fatorda. Sesa FA vs Sporting Clube de Goa, at Sirsaim ground. Guardian Angel SC vs Dempo Sports Club, at Betalbatim ground. Kick off 4 pm
GFA Division I League (Group A): Youth Club of Manora vs St Savio SC, Calangute, at Raia ground, 4 pm. SCC Cavelossim vs Clube Sao Minguel de Taleigao, at Benaulim ground, 4 pm
GFA Division I League (Group B): St Anthony SC, Mar-na, vs Young Boys of Tonca, Guirim ground, 4 pm. Albert Developers SC vs Goa Velha SC, at Santa Cruz ground, 4 pm
17th London Trophy inter-village football: CAC Cansaulim vs Varca Sports Club, at Goa Velha Sports Club ground, Goa Velha, 4.30 pm

Title-chasing Churchill Bros stunned in injury time

Team Herald
 sports@herald-goa.com



Churchill Brothers and Sreenidi Deccan FC players chase for the ball at the Raia panchayat ground, on Sunday

RAIA: Churchill Brothers' march towards the 2024-25 I-League title hit a bit of a roadblock as they were held to a 1-1 draw by Sreenidi Deccan FC at the Raia panchayat ground, here, on Sunday. Despite leading for the majority of the match through a first-half goal from Pape Gassama, the Goan side were denied all three points when David Castañeda Muñoz converted a last-gasp penalty in stoppage time for the visitors.

The draw will sting Churchill Brothers, who were on the cusp of consolidating their position at the summit. With 40 points from 20 matches (12 wins, 4 draws, 4 losses), they remain top of the table, but the draw has now left the door ajar for Inter Kashi, Real Kashmir, and Gokulam Kerala to close the gap in the title race.

Meanwhile, Sreenidi Deccan, once again played the role of party-pooper. After frustrating Inter Kashi in their last outing, they repeated the trick against the league leaders as well. The Deccan Warriors are now sixth in the table with 27 points from 20 matches. On a hot and humid af-

ternoon, Churchill Brothers started brightly and looked intent on building on their four-match unbeaten run. They carried their early momentum into the game and took the lead in the 29th minute, thanks to a moment of quality from Gassama. After receiving the ball at the edge of the area, the Senegalese midfielder chipped it delicately over goalkeeper Aryan Lamba, giving the home crowd reason to believe the three points were in the bag. The Red Machines controlled the tempo for most of the match, with Stendly Fernandes providing width and service from the



flanks. However, their failure to convert chances would ultimately cost them. Wayde Lekay and Rafiq Aminu, usually reliable finishers, were uncharacteristically wasteful in front of goal.

Aminu had the best chance to wrap up the game in stoppage time, when Lekay intercepted a poor clearance and unselfishly laid the ball off to his teammate. But with only the keeper to beat and a clear shot on goal, the Ghanaian forward blazed his effort over the crossbar.

Sreenidi Deccan, who had spent much of the match chasing the game, saw a glimmer of hope when Lalliansanga Renthlei was adjudged to have committed a dangerous foul on Lalromawia inside the box in the final minute of added time. The referee had no hesitation in pointing to the spot. Muñoz, already the league's top scorer, stepped up and calmly slotted home his 13th goal of the campaign, snatching a point from the jaws of defeat and silencing the home support.

RESULT

Churchill Brothers 1 (Pape Gassama 29') Sreenidi Deccan 1 (David Castañeda Muñoz 90+11' p)

Dempo SC look to capitalise on attacking strengths against Aizawl FC today

Team Herald
 sports@herald-goa.com

PANJIM: Dempo Sports Club will be aiming to return to winning ways when they take on Aizawl FC in a pivotal I-League 2024-25 encounter on March 24, at the Nehru Stadium, Fatorda, at 4.30 pm.

The Golden Eagles are looking to recover from a 1-3 home defeat to Churchill Brothers, where an unfortunate own goal from Mohamed Ali, along with strikes from Wayde Lekay and Stendly Fernandes, sealed their fate.

Despite a late fightback that saw Shaher Shaheen pull one back, Dempo SC could not overturn the deficit.

Head Coach Samir Naik acknowledged the disappointment but re-

mains optimistic. "The loss to Churchill Brothers was tough to take because we felt we could get something out of the game. But we have regrouped, worked on our mistakes, and are ready for the challenges ahead," he stated.

Aizawl FC, on the other hand, head into the contest with renewed con-

PREVIEW

fidence after a 2-0 win over Delhi FC, courtesy of a Lalbiakidika brace. The side from Mizoram, however has struggled for consistency this season and currently sit 11th in the table with 19 points from 19 games.

With relegation looming, they will be desperate to build on their recent victo-

ry and climb out of the danger zone.

Dempo SC, positioned ninth with 22 points, are also aware of the importance of this fixture, as the battle for survival intensifies.

Naik emphasised the significance of the match, saying, "It's a crucial game for both teams. We know what's at stake, and we must give everything on the pitch."

With both sides fighting to avoid the drop, expect a tense, hard-fought battle at Fatorda.

Playing at home, Dempo SC will look to capitalise on their attacking strengths, while Aizawl FC will aim to frustrate their opponents and strike on the counter. A high-stakes showdown awaits as both teams battle for three vital points.

Title aspirants Clube de Salgaocar take it easy against Cortalim Villagers SWSC

Team Herald
 sports@herald-goa.com

MAPUSA: New entrants Clube de Salgaocar registered a fluent 3-1 win over Cortalim Villagers Social Welfare Sports Club in the Goa Professional Super League match played at Duler Stadium, here, on Sunday.

Clube de Salgaocar fighting for the GPL title kept their opponents pinned inside their own territory for major part of the first session.

If not for Cortalim Villagers SWSC goalkeeper Francis Vincent the score sheet would have read differently.

Early at the start of the match he brought a brilliant save from Wendell Coelho strike from close.

Cortalim Villagers SWSC came close in opening their account in the 14th minute, but it was Clube Salgaocar's

custodian Sanij Bugde who brought back to back saves to deny U-21 Michael Dias and Norman Dias shots.

In the 20th minute, Cortalim Villagers SWSC's custodian Francis Vincent brought down Clube Salgaocar's Akeraj Martin's

just inside the 18-yard box prompting Referee Jan Rodrigues to point to the dreaded spot.

GOA PROFESSIONAL SUPER LEAGUE

Clube Salgaocar's teammates could not believe when goalkeeper Francis collected Pratesh Shirodkar spot kick with a full stretched diving save.

Once again, Francis came to his team's rescue as he came with an excellent save to collect a superb placement from Akeraj.

Finally in the 40th minute, Clube Salgaocar's defender

U-21 Reezvon Fernandes scorching left footer came off the horizontal bar to unmarked Pratesh Shirodkar who fired his shot into the back of the nylons, 1-0.

In the stoppage time, Cortalim Villagers SWSC's custodian Francis was back in action as he paired Mevzen Oliveira curling shot to safety and two minutes later tipped Boinao

Singh tap off a corner over the crossbar.

On crossing ends, Clube Salgaocar had two more close strikes at the rival goal but Boinao Singh and Reezvon Fernandes shots came off the horizontal bar.

However, in the 68th minute, Clube Salgaocar's Meuton Fernandes doubled his team lead from an acute angle, 2-0.

Cortalim Villagers SWSC caught Clube Salgaocar's defence napping in the 78th minute when S Navaneeth guided Shario Gomes cross into the goal, 2-1.

Four minutes later, Cortalim Villagers almost equalised but Clube Salgaocar's custodian Sanij Bugde flung to his left to pair Ashnoy Gomes curling shot entering the far corner of the goal. When it looked Cortalim Villagers SWSC would collect a point with a draw Clube Salgaocar's Royal Oliveira scored after Royol Colaco's shot was blocked by keeper Francis, 3-1.

Churchill slams referee for 'dubious' penalty

Team Herald
 sports@herald-goa.com

PANJIM: Churchill Brothers Football Club owner Churchill Alemao on Sunday alleged that, of late, it appears as though tournaments such as the I-League are being rigged, so that results favour one particular team.

"The referees' decisions in so many games have gone against my team (Churchill Brothers FC) and other teams just to push a particular team," he cryptically stated after his team was held to a 1-1 draw in the added-on time.

"It looks as though certain sections of the All India Football Federation are hell bent in ensuring that my team does not become the champions. What transpired on Sunday in our match against Sreenidhi Deccan FC was simply baffling.

We led 1-0 with 90 minutes having been played. Referee Crystal John, no newcomer to controversy, added seven

more minutes. But even after nine minutes of added-on time was played, he did not blow the final whistle despite looking at his watch too after eight minutes had been played and the fourth official telling our head coach that the final kick of the match was after we got the free-kick. The referee then awarded a dubious penalty when the player was clearly offside. The match ended 1-1 and we lost two more precious points thanks to Crystal John's crystal clear blunders," Churchill rebuked.

He further alleged that it appears as though he was hell bent on preventing us from gaining three full points and increasing the lead at the top of the table so that teams below us at No. 2 and No. 3 can benefit in the end. If you recall, during the Indian Super League match between Bengaluru FC and Kerala Blasters FC, Crystal John awarded a free-kick to BFC and asked Sunil Chhetri to wait for his whistle. But Chhetri

took the award and scored even before Kerala Blasters had formed a wall. Kerala Blasters coach Ivan Vukomanovic walked out with his team. The team and the coach were later heavily fined.

Why should the AIFF persist with such referees and spoil the clubs and maybe the entire tournament time and again?, Churchill asked.

"The entire country is aware of my love and passion for football. I have been running my club Churchill Brothers Football Club for the past four decades and maintaining it at the highest levels of the game. I have been spending crores of rupees from my own resources thereby helping to generate employment and earning opportunities for hundreds

of footballers, coaches and other necessary staff from Goa, other parts of the country and also from many nations abroad. But the manner in which football is being administered

in the country is very disheartening. If you recall, sometime back I had even spoken about closing down my club. It has become so frustrating."

"I request the media to kindly look into various issues connected with the match and the I-League itself so that corrective measures are adopted. If not, I would have to once again consider withdrawing my club from the I-League. But remember one thing when God is with us nobody can be against us and we have full faith in Almighty God that nobody can take the title away from us," Churchill concluded.



KALA ACADEMY GOA
50th TIATR 'A' GROUP COMPETITION - (2024-25)
TODAY'S TIATR 24/03/2025
THE HEALING HOUSE
 Fr. Milton Rodrigues
 Institution: Goan Com Socio & Cultural Association, Candolim
 Venue: Dinanath Mangeshkar Kala Mandir, Panaji
 Time: 7.00 p.m.
 *Tickets of Rs. 100/- available at the Venue

TIATR ACADEMY OF GOA | In Collaboration With | **Organises**
Popular Tiatr Festival 2025
It's Today on 24th March 2025 Free
Amkam Ballgun Dovor
 Domnic Carvalho, Majorda
 At Ravindra Bhavan, Vasco at 4.00pm

TOMORROW DRAMATIC TROUPE OF RIBANDAR
 Presents for Kala Academy 50th Tiatr Competition in 'A' Group
Dusrem JIVI
 Written & Directed by **DIOGO FERNANDES** alias **DANNY de RIBANDAR**
54th TIATR
 Supported by **TIATR ACADEMY OF GOA**
Live Band by SELVYN BRAGANZA
Background Music by VIJU KAMBLE | Light Effects by VAIBHAV NAIK
Date 25.03.2025 | Time 7 pm sharp | Venue Kala Academy A.C hall, Panjim.
THANKS TO MR. VINCENT ANDRADE, RIBANDAR
 NB: Tiatr somptoch, Kala Academy Panaji-san Ribandar eunk bussi asteleo.

